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താസത്തിനും വകയില്ല. അതിനാൽ ആ ബില്ലിലെ കമ്മിറ്റിയെ ഇതും ഏല്പിച്ചുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്ന് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—I second it.

President.—*The question before the House is that the Cochin Nambudiri Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following persons.*

1. Dr. A. G. Menon.
2. Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri
3. C. N Ittiravi Nambudiri.
4. ,, P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.
5. ,, T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.
6. ,, Joseph Petta.
7. Srimathi Parvati Nanmanimangalam
8. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.
9. ,, A. Sankara Poduval.
10. Dr. A. R. Menon.

and 11. the Government Advocate.

Motion carried.

Resolutions on matters of General Public Interest.

8. College Extension Scheme—(*contd.*)

President.—We will continue the discussions of Mr. Warriar's resolution.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—I regret that this resolution which appears to be rather in offensive at first sight, is not so innocent as it looks, and this has been made perfectly clear by the discussion we have had on it since yesterday. Much skill has been shown by a few Honourable Members here in focusing or trying to focus attention on one or two aspects of the question and thereby to make out a very strong case for themselves. They would say, for instance, that it is under the impression that the retention of the College at Ernakulam would be cheaper than its transfer to Anappara that it was passed by this Council. This, Sir, is a half-truth and, as usual, a half truth is worse than falsehood. It is true that finance was one of the considerations which weighed with this House when it voted on the motion. But then the full truth is that there were other considerations too, some of them more important, which prompted this House to vote for the retention of the College at Ernakulam. We were influenced, for instance, by considerations of the necessity and advantages of collegiate education being in contact with the actual political, social and economic life of the State. We were influenced by considerations of the evils of segregating students at Anappara, of the superiority of the home atmosphere to the hostel atmosphere, considerations of the facilities to poor students, the prospects of instilling into the students the bias for maritime commerce and so on and so forth. That even the

Government looked upon the financial aspect of the question as a secondary matter, is clear from the reply the Diwan gave to the deputation that waited on him to protest against the resolution that was passed in this Council. If I remember right, when the question of comparative cost was discussed, the Diwan said that in this all-important matter the difference of a few lakhs would not matter much. Thus, we find even the Government was of that opinion then, and the House also had that view. Therefore, Sir, the attempt of some Honourable Members to drive the Government into a difficult position by arguing that the Council had voted for the retention of the College at Ernakulam because it was the cheaper alternative but that this cheapness has now disappeared, bespeaks the mentality of a prejudiced partisan and not of an impartial critic. The financial argument was secondary. There were more important arguments of a loftier kind in coming to this resolution for the retention of the College at Ernakulam. The question of comparative costs, therefore, Sir, I submit, does not arise at this stage of the question. Now, even on the question of finance, has there been any material change from the original position that we had when we discussed the question last time? Certainly not. It is true that, on account of the exceptionally exacting conditions laid down by the University, the cost has been increased perhaps by a lakh or more. Surely that should not be considered as a very substantial increase in the financial commitment involved in this question and even then, it is much cheaper than what the cost would have been at Anappara if the College had to be transferred to that place. One Honourable Member was arguing that the smaller cost at Ernakulam is because of the smaller accommodation here and that, therefore, the project at Ernakulam is dearer in effect. The Honourable Member wanted to make much capital out of that argument. I am sorry to say that that argument entirely misses the point. Accommodation at Ernakulam is not going to be in any way less than it would have been at Anappara. The only thing is that at Ernakulam Government is not obliged to provide all the accommodation, since a part would be provided otherwise. I would like to explain myself. Thus, for instance, because students would live in their own houses at Ernakulam, the College authorities are not obliged to provide so much of hostel accommodation as they would have been obliged to if the college were to be located at Anappara, where the necessities of the case compel it to be wholly residential. Again, when the college is at Ernakulam, the members of the staff could find quarters in the town conveniently, hence the college authorities would not be obliged to

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provide staff quarters for all the members. Again, we have the proximity of the General Hospital, the existence of Town water-supply, the Irwin Park and so on. These are considerations which have to be taken into account. We find that these facilities would enable the college authorities to lessen the expenditure on this account, without at the same time reducing the accommodation or the facilities that would be available to the students. In other words, we find that at Ernakulam by a smaller expenditure we could have the same accommodation and the same facilities as we could have at Anappara by a larger outlay. And yet the Honourable advocates of this resolution simply shut their eyes on this fact in their anxiety to make the Ernakulam scheme appear the costlier of the two. I submit that in any attempt at estimating the comparative cost, this aspect of the question has also to be considered. There are facilities otherwise provided at Ernakulam, and hence we cannot say that the college at Ernakulam is in any way providing less accommodation than if the college were at Anappara. Then, there was objection raised that Botany Main is not provided here. I understand that the same provision for Botany Subsidiary would be sufficient for Botany Main also. On that score, therefore, you cannot say that the Ernakulam scheme is a shrunken one. The Hon'ble Member for Cheruviruthy, in his characteristically vehement style said that the Government is indulging in a sort of mad rush in this scheme. I am afraid he allowed himself to be carried away more by sentiment than by argument and reasoning. If at all there was any mad rush it was in the case of Anappara. On the contrary, I think there has not been any mad rush in promoting the Ernakulam scheme. Another line of argument taken up by the opponents of the Ernakulam scheme is this. Should we not, they ask, have some definite idea of the financial commitment the Government will have to make, if this scheme were to be worked?

The House rose for lunch at 2 p. m. and met again and 3 p. m. with the Deputy President in the Chair.

Mr. Joseph Pettah:—Sir, I have already referred to the very vehement speech made by the Hon'ble Member for Cheruviruthi. I am sorry he is not in the House now. As I said, if at all there was any rush in the matter, it was more in the case of the scheme at Anappara had than in the case of Ernakulam. If I am right, as was elicited by certain questions made in this Council, the buildings at Anappara to be taken on hand even before the detailed estimates were prepared for their construction, and yet nobody voted against Anappara on account of that. Other

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Hon'ble Members have taken up another line of argument, a line of argument which looks rather very plausible on the face of it. "Should we not", they ask, "have a definite idea of what the financial commitments would be if the extensions at Ernakulam are undertaken"? "Should we not have that—we, who are the representatives of the people"? Sir, I may submit that this argument comes with rather ill-grace from Hon'ble Members who protested against the representative charater of this House. Anyhow, I do not want to oppose that argument on that score. Let us look at it squarely and fairly in the face. What exactly is the argument? I say that to have a definite idea of the financial commitments, it is not necessary that we must have detailed estimates of every little thing connected with the extension works, a detailed estimate of the baths, latrines, the walls and such other small constructions. The Chief Engineer yesterday was very kind enough to place at our disposal a very lucid statement of the actual commitment that would be involved by the College Extensions at Ernakulam; and after his very lucid speech, I should say there is no more ground for this argument that we have no idea of the financial commitments involved in the scheme'. And he has shown to us that this financial commitment is not going to be anything more than the original commitment contemplated when the resolution was passed in this Council. Of course there may be some slight difference. Therefore, if people are not convinced even after that lucid statement, I would say that I am only reminded of the saying that 'a man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still'. It is not a matter of intellectual convincing. It is only the will that refuses to be convinced. I do not want to go into the motives underlying this resolution, though something has been said about these motives. Nevertheless, all the antecedents and circumstances put together, I am constrained to think that the primary purpose of this resolution is to postpone indefinitely the extensions that would otherwise be begun at Ernakulam. Now is it not very cruel to the students? In this sort of tug-of-war between the advocates of Anappara and the opposers of Anappara, very often the interests of the students are sacrificed. Even this year, as all of us know, several applications had to be rejected for want of room, and you know that even students, who had been admitted, had to be sent away from the College. And if the scheme is going to be deferred further, what about these unfortunate students next year, year after next and so on? I understand that even if it is pushed on immediately, the proposed addition may not be quite ready for the next year. But at least for the year after next we shall be in a posi-

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tion to admit more students. Therefore, if the extension scheme is to be deferred indefinitely for this reason and that reason, I should think that would be an act of great cruelty to the students. In the interests of the students, therefore, I would exhort this House to turn down this resolution ; and in the same interests of the students I would ask the Government to proceed vigorously with the College Extension works at Ernakulam.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Sir, the third resolution involves the question of figures. The figures, as far as it has been possible to collect, have been placed before this House yesterday, in answer to questions, by the expert Member for Engineering, and in order to save him from the trouble of standing up for a second time, I am on my legs to explain one or two facts. Now I am always shy of intentions and motives because one thing I don't desire to say in the thick of the fight. I cannot believe any Hon'ble Member of this House can be actuated by anything except by the most laudable motives. I am here concerned only with the reasons which have been assigned by the Hon'ble Mover of this resolution for delaying the execution of the work which has almost reached the stage of being given on tender. He assigned two reasons. The first one was that the Council voted the expenditure on a certain definite scheme whereas he finds now the money is going to be expended on a quite different scheme. I am not here to say that there are no differences between the rough scheme passed by this House and certain details which have been worked out by expert members. The question is whether there is any appreciable difference, any material difference which ought to involve any kind of censure from the Member concerned. What exactly is the difference between the two? The only difference which has been pointed, so far as I can see, is that there is a difference in cost, and in this connection our Committee came in for a good deal of criticism. My connection with that Committee ceased long ago and even on that Committee my position was only of a purely presidential nature. That Committee estimated the cost roughly at eleven lakhs. I use the word "roughly" advisedly, because I do not believe that the Committee ever said that the figures presented by the Committee were absolutely accurate. On the other hand the Committee said that the figures were only tentative. Now these figures were exceeded or had not exceeded by the present estimates. Excepting in regard to certain details which did not cost very much, I do not believe, Sir, that the Government has been responsible for any increase whatsoever in the cost of the scheme. To give this House only

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one instance there is the additional cost of shifting the reservoir. How any Government or any educational authority could have anticipated such an objection surpasses my imagination altogether. That poor reservoir does not obstruct anything. It occupies very little space. But distinguished Educationists who are not members of the Syndicate who visited the site recently and went all round the College, observed that it was one of the best Colleges that they have visited. At any rate it was far better than many of the Government Colleges in the Presidency. Now here we have a sum of Rs. 60,000 which we may have to spend if the reservoir has to be shifted. No one could have anticipated this contingency. Now take away that sum of Rs. 60,000; what is the variation between the old and new ones? Another thing that was brought out in the course of moving the resolution was that the cost was the main consideration which weighed with the Government in discussing the question of the transfer of the College. That, Sir, is certainly not a quite accurate statement. The first proceedings issued by the Government dated 17th June last reads thus :—

"It was stated that the question of expanding the present College buildings to suit the requirements pointed out by the University Commission had never been considered". That was one reason. Another reason was that it was quite unfair to deprive Ernakulam of a College which has been existing there now for about half a century, that it was unwise to undertake any costly scheme of higher education, having regard to the State's financial commitments, and that a model College for Arts Education was not at present a necessity. The question of cost was just one of the many reasons and it was not the sole reason. I do not say that it is not an important reason. The very same question was raised by the deputation which waited upon the Diwan and the Diwan informed that deputation and this House later on that the main consideration which weighed with the Government was not the question of finance but the popular view. Now these were the two points raised by the Mover of the Resolution.

Then the Hon'ble Member for Cheruviruthi said that no respectable man would resort to this Committee's Report. (*Hear, hear*). I am sure absolutely he did not mean any disrespect to the individual members. Perhaps he said that no sane man will refer to this Committee's Report. Now what did this Committee do? This Committee is supposed to have—the Hon'ble Member will please correct me if I commit any mistake—held out a hope that the scheme which they were proposing would be almost the same as the one which was

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adumbrated at Ramavarmapuram and then the Hon'ble Member con plained that Botany was not found in the extension here.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—On a point of order, Sir. Can I point out that the main objection was that the Committee was a packed Committee and therefore no self-respecting man would look into the matter. That Committee was a packed Committee to record a verdict in favour of the opinion that the College should be retained at Ernakulam.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I think the Diwan has also attempted to give an answer to it. Now it is held that this Committee had promised that more or less the same scheme is going to be inaugurated here practically with a smaller expenditure. I take the sentence from the Committee's Report. "It will be frankly impossible to attempt in Ernakulam what Government contemplated in Ramavarmapuram". If the same thing was to be done the Committee need not have remarked that 'it will be frankly impossible". Again in its opinion "the requirements of higher education do not at present require such elaborate arrangements or justify such enormous expenditure" (*Hear, hear*). Now the Committee never promised that the same ideal scheme was going to be executed here.

Now, coming to the question of deficiency or restriction, I was asked whether there was provision for teaching Botany for the Graduate Class. I was rather in a fix to give a reply because as a teacher, as one who has some acquaintance at any rate with the teaching of some subject, I felt convinced that I would be judged by an ordinary standard of inspection. As things now stand, room for the teaching of Botany is insufficient. But the trouble was we are not the Judges. We occupy the position of plaintiffs and how am I to say that it is sufficient. Granting that the present accommodation is insufficient, I understand, Sir, that the additional cost involved would be Rs. 12,000 for the provision of two rooms. The great difficulty that I experience is, however much one man unburdens his heart here, there is very little inclination to understand and in this respect also the University has been showing the very same attitude.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Respectable partners!

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The University has been asking for information which was supplied in previous cases. In the final letter they say :—

"The maximum strength for which provision is proposed to be made is not stated".

Now a letter was written to the University more than a month before.

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This was furnished to the University about a month and a half previous to this letter. So however much one may keep on telling the same thing, unless there is a similar response from the other side, it makes me more nervous whenever further explanations are called for. It would be utterly futile, unless people are willing to understand.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, there are certain persons who cannot understand or view the actions of others without attributing some personal motive to their actions. May I assure the Hon'ble Members for South Ezhuvas and Adoor that it was not with any selfish motive that I tabled this resolution.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—No assurance will do.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Then what does the Hon'ble Member want? I challenge any member to point out one instance where I went out of the real ambit of the spirit of this resolution. The speech with which I moved the resolution has been taken down by the Short-hand reporters and it will bear testimony to what I am saying now. I made it very clear and I repeat it even now that I am never against the Extension Scheme at Ernakulam, nor am I against the Government spending any amount for it. A time there was when I was really against the short-sighted policy of the Government in spending so much money here without having due regard to the future expansion of higher education in the State. But I think I have sense enough to bow to the inevitable. I have made my position clear both here in this Council and outside. I never wanted to rake up that question again. But unfortunately some of the Members wanted to do it and wanted to discuss the merits and demerits of both schemes. Of course I had absolutely no control over them. If I had, I would have certainly stopped them and the discussion of this resolution would have been over long long ago.

The main thing that prompted me to send this resolution was the Appendix appended to one of the questions in the previous session, *i. e.*, the last day of the previous session in which the University said that the scheme would be regarded as an entire and indivisible whole and would require its complete execution before the restriction of numbers now imposed upon the College can be relaxed in any way. There was also a general feeling in the country that the original scheme has been substantially altered and that the Government is going to spend a large amount of money. Instead of dissipating that opinion, the Government also in a way contributed to that belief by answering my questions in such a way that they said that the cost report of the scheme is only under preparation. So I thought it was the duty of every responsible Government to

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have at least a comprehensive estimate and report of a big scheme like this, before they actually launched upon it. I wanted to make my position sure and so I asked them several supplementary questions to ascertain the total cost of the scheme, but they told me that they have not even selected all the sites. I have absolutely no complaint whatsoever if you are able to give me only a rough estimate. What I really want the Government to do is to have an estimate of the cost which they will have to incur in connection with the scheme, in the interest of the scheme itself, lest it may be said afterwards that the Government was spending a larger amount than was thought of by this House. It was in that spirit, in the interest of the scheme itself, that I brought forward this resolution. I am not responsible for the way in which the whole discussion was side-tracked by Members over whom I had adsolutely no centrol. Of course it has afforded opportunities to explain the positions of each other and for the Government Member to explain their position and to attack the conduct of the University. But I am not going to say anything about that. I am not going to speak a word about the comparative merits of the scheme. I know a time will come after the completion of the whole scheme, when all of us will get an opportunity to compare and it is then that we can usefully make a comparative estimate. It is to impress upon the Government the necessity of preparing a comprehensive cost report of the scheme that they are undertaking, that I tabled this resolution. Now I find from the words of some of the Hon'ble Members on the Government side that the scheme is going to cost about 12 lakhs and not much more than that. Whatever that be, I would even now request the Government to make a comprehensive cost report of the scheme at a very early date. It will not cost them much. It is not to put obstacles in the way. I know that I will not be able to do that. I know you will push on with the scheme. I say that every responsible Government should have a cost report before they launch upon a scheme. With these few words I beg leave of the House to withdraw the resolution.

Resolution withdrawn with leave of the House.

9. Baby Nurseries in Girls' Schools.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.—സർ, ഞാൻ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനോടു് ആദ്യമേ ഒരു അപേക്ഷ ചെയ്യുകൊള്ളുന്നു. എന്റെ നെയൻ പ്ലാനിംഗ് റിലേഷനെ പറ്റി അവർ പറഞ്ഞ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ പോലെ ഇന്നിശ്ചയത്തെപറ്റിയും പറയരുതു് എന്നാണു് എനിക്കുള്ള അപേക്ഷ. പണമില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവൺമെൻറു് ഈ കാര്യംനടത്താതിരിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു പറഞ്ഞാൽ മതി. അതു ഞങ്ങൾക്കു മന

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